

LESSON 26

THE SEVENTEENTH PATH

'The Seventeenth Path is the Disposing Intelligence which provides Faith to the Righteous, and they are clothed with the Holy Spirit by it, and it is called the Foundation of Excellence in the state of higher things.'

The 17th Path connecting Binah and Tiphareth is called Disposing Intelligence and is said to dispose faith to the devout. The other title given to the emanations of this Path is called the Foundation of Excellence which shows that faith and hope come to those who earn it. From an esoteric viewpoint one could also consider that the Holy Spirit is Binah (due to its association to Vau-the Son, the third person of the name YHVH) which through the 17th Path unites with Tiphareth, which also is analogous to Vau but on a much lower scale than Binah. Since Tiphareth is the Sephira of the righteous, Binah sends its emanation down the 17th Path because it is also the Foundation of Excellence in the state of higher things.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Zain which has a numerical value of 7. ABD meaning to perish or destroy is one Hebrew root of particular interest for this ties in well with Zain and the concept of a sword. Other martial roots of the same value are GD meaning to assault and DNA meaning strength. As a word Zain (ZIN) has a total value of 67 which equates with Binah

which means understanding. Zain can also be spelled as ZYN(F) which makes its numerical value of 717 which relates to TChN(F) and means grind or reduce to powder and YZN(F) meaning preparations. This can also relate to things being reduced to dust as a result of a martial conflict.

It is considered by de'Olivet that Zain when used as a consonant relates to a hissing sound, which certain objects make when whirled about one in the air. He further states that Zain not only relates to a sword but to any sharp instrument such as an arrow, dart or javelin and as a grammatical sign it shows an abstract form of a link.

The Tarot card associated here is the Lovers and in its Golden dawn format is quite unique for it shows the myth of Persues flying through the air and rescuing Andromeda, who is chained to a rock, from the sea monster who is about to devour her. In this card we have Persues holding the sword and in fact becomes its outward tool and represents air. Andromeda is chained to the rock which rises from the sea and she represents water. The chains show that Andromeda is trapped in the stone and Persues will rescue her from it by penetration (remember the previous association to powder which is the shattered stone) with the sea monster acting as the catalyst. For if he were not going to devour Andromeda then she would not be trapped in the first place and hence the meeting with Persues may never have taken place. The whole concept is one of uniting aspects of both fire and water.

The Egyptian dieties here are any that form a twin function and not necessarily that of lovers. For example take Horus and Set, the early Egyptian dynasties had Set as ruler of the night and Horus (the elder) as ruler of the day. Both of these gods held the celestial ladder which the dead climbed to which had to be done in harmony. Isis and Nephthys are another example showing how the two sisters worked together. Isis was agriculture goddess of growth and her sister looked after the crops in the twilight while Isis slept.

The Greek association to this Path is the legend of the Dioscuri or the sons of Zeus. They were conceived by Zeus who made love to Leda in the form of a swan. Leda brought forth two eggs as a result of the union. One contained Castor and Clytemnestra and the other Pollux and Helen. Though the parentage of the four has always been in doubt, they were acknowledged as children of Zeus because they were hatched from an egg which would have hardly been from Leda's husband Tyndarus. Many of their heroic epics are recorded in the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts. Eventually Castor was killed and his death was avenged by his brother, and Zeus permitted Castor to join Pollux (who was immortal) as a constellation in the sky.

Though the legend of Castor and Pollux could apply equally as well here, the legend of Romulus and Remus is a purely Roman myth that could also be associated to this Path. These infants survived on the milk of a she wolf until found by Faustulus, a

shepherd. The twins were in fact grandsons of the former king Numitor of Alba, and were ordered to be thrown into the Tiber by their Great Uncle Amulus after he had taken the crown from his brother. After avenging their grandfather's death the brothers built the fortifications of a city, and in doing so they founded (Rome), and Remus was killed by his brother after he ridiculed his basic design.

The sun sign associated to this Path is Gemini. Those born under this sign show the attributes of the curious and versatile. They are more than likely associated to the arts in some way with a love or flair for the dramatic in communications. They are people who are quick on the uptake but also dislike sticking to routines. They are sensitive individuals but always on the move, never attaching themselves to one place or thing for any length of time before it loses interest for them. The whole idea of this sign is bound up in the mental pursuits and this is where they excell best providing they remain long enough at them.

The constellation of Gemini is called the twins and is said to have been based on the legend of Castor and Pollux. The Coptic name for this constellation is Pi-Mahi meaning the united. There are approximately 85 stars in this constellation with the brightest two being Apollo meaning ruler and Hercules meaning who comes to labour, both of these are in the heads of the twins. Other stars are Al Henah meaning hurt or wounded and Mabsuta meaning treading under feet. Ptolemy says 'The stars in the feet of Gemini have an influence similar to that of Mercury and

moderately to that of Venus. The bright stars in the thighs are like Saturn,'

The magical weapon of this Path is the tripod. One of the most famous uses of the tripod was the oracle of Delphi who sat on the tripod seat above the sulphur fumes and became the voice of the gods. The tripod is in fact a tool of the Inner Order and as such can only generally be gone into at this level. Mathers says 'And remember in working with a tripod the cone of reception will attract any passing Intelligence or Force. Thus, without the greatest care, much deception could arise, and even against the intention of the communicating Intelligence, deception may result through confused mistranslations by the Operator or Operators.

The virtue of this Path is classification, for here the powerful energies thus developed along certain lines are taken a step further and classified or pigeon holed. This is a very necessary thing for without the classification, the energy attained in previous Paths would scatter and be wasted. This is a point where logic is introduced to diversify varying energy forces so that they are channelled into the correct areas. This is a point where terms of reference need to be applied so that more growth can be developed.

The vice of this Path is isolation, for it is here that energies are developed along a single line with no thought for diversification into other areas. In isolation there is no classification for it is but a single approach which is restrictive

to say the least. Any different energies found that do not fit in with the single isolation theme are discarded and not channelled into useful areas. In isolation one also ignores the developments going on in other areas and in many instances this is a duplication of effort which can be considered a waste but more importantly it shows a narrow viewpoint.

The magical attainment of this Path is to be able to be in two places at the same time and of prophecy. The key word added to this statement is awareness. To be in two places at the same time without awareness is no benefit at all and this occurs in the legend of the doppelganger, that mysterious double who turns up in other areas and is an exact duplicate of the self with all his or her memories. These are of course involuntary projections with no direction at all. Using the astral body though to experience things on the earthly plane is another matter and this when controlled, is an experience of this Path which is a very powerful one at that, for it breaks down all walls of privacy and because of this a great deal of discretion should be used for those who can master this exercise.

One of the precious stones applied here is the Alexandrite which was named after Czar Alexandra in 1831. The stone itself is a form of chrysoberyl which is a natural green but changes to red under artificial lighting. It is also found in the east as well, especially in Sri-Lanka (Ceylon) where large specimens have been located and where it is known to be a lucky stone but not unassociated with bloodshed. The common opinion of it is that the

wearer will come into good luck though not without paying a heavy price for it (through suffering). Other stones also associated here are Tourmaline and Iceland Spar.

The plant of this Path is any type of hybrid. Websters Dictionary says that the definition of a hybrid (in relation to plants) is the offspring of two or more plants of different species. The whole concept is merely one of grafting to produce a better variety of plant.

Wormwood is a perfume that can apply to this Path due to its mental stimulation though this perfume can apply to other areas as well. It is an extremely powerful aromatic when used in its raw state and it is strongly suggested that this perfume never be used on its own but mixed with other aromatics so that better control can be kept over it, especially during a magical ceremony. It totally penetrates the aura of the magician and when he or she is involved in evocative work this can help establish a rapport between the the magician and the force in question. One of the problem areas associated to this perfume is that any type of force can with the perfume penetrate an aura which creates double visions (which relates to the particular world of the unwelcomed force mixed in with our present existence resulting in an overlap of the senses), that is, if the magician is not prepared.

The mineral drug of this Path is Kali Muriaticum or Kali. Mur. as it is sometimes called. This cell salt is essential to

fibrin (a protein essential for clotting of the blood) formation. Kali. Mur. is often used in an inflammatory illness in its second stage of development. It helps coughs and colds and any respiratory complaints.

The legendary order of beings associated here are any that become visible in appearance which of course cuts across a variety of different spiritual heirachies. The one thing they all have in common is the power to manifest in this world while still existing in the next. To do this requires a tremendous amount of energy and the spirit in question must draw from living sources in this existence to keep the manifestation up. Most of these manifestations though are only for a limited period and relate very heavily to astrological influences and certain local conditions that all aid the manifestation.

The angel of this Path is Ambriel and is also associated to the 12th hour of the night. The name Ambriel is from the root AM meaning mother, source or origin. The root BR is a form of potential creation or internal movement. Put together it relates to the movement in the mother's womb or the formation of the foetus. Ambriel has a numerical value of 284 which relates to roots like PRD meaning to render separate and RPD to spread around. The entire aspect shows us that Ambriel is an angel who looks after new developments that are dual by nature and have a large growth rate.

The birds associated to this Path are those of the speaking

variety such as parrots, parakeets, magpies etc. Speaking is of course an aspect of communication which is a key word of this Path. Other associations here are animals of dual plumage which is a characteristic of their feathers or skin, such as the zebra, tiger or penguin.

ASSOCIATIONS

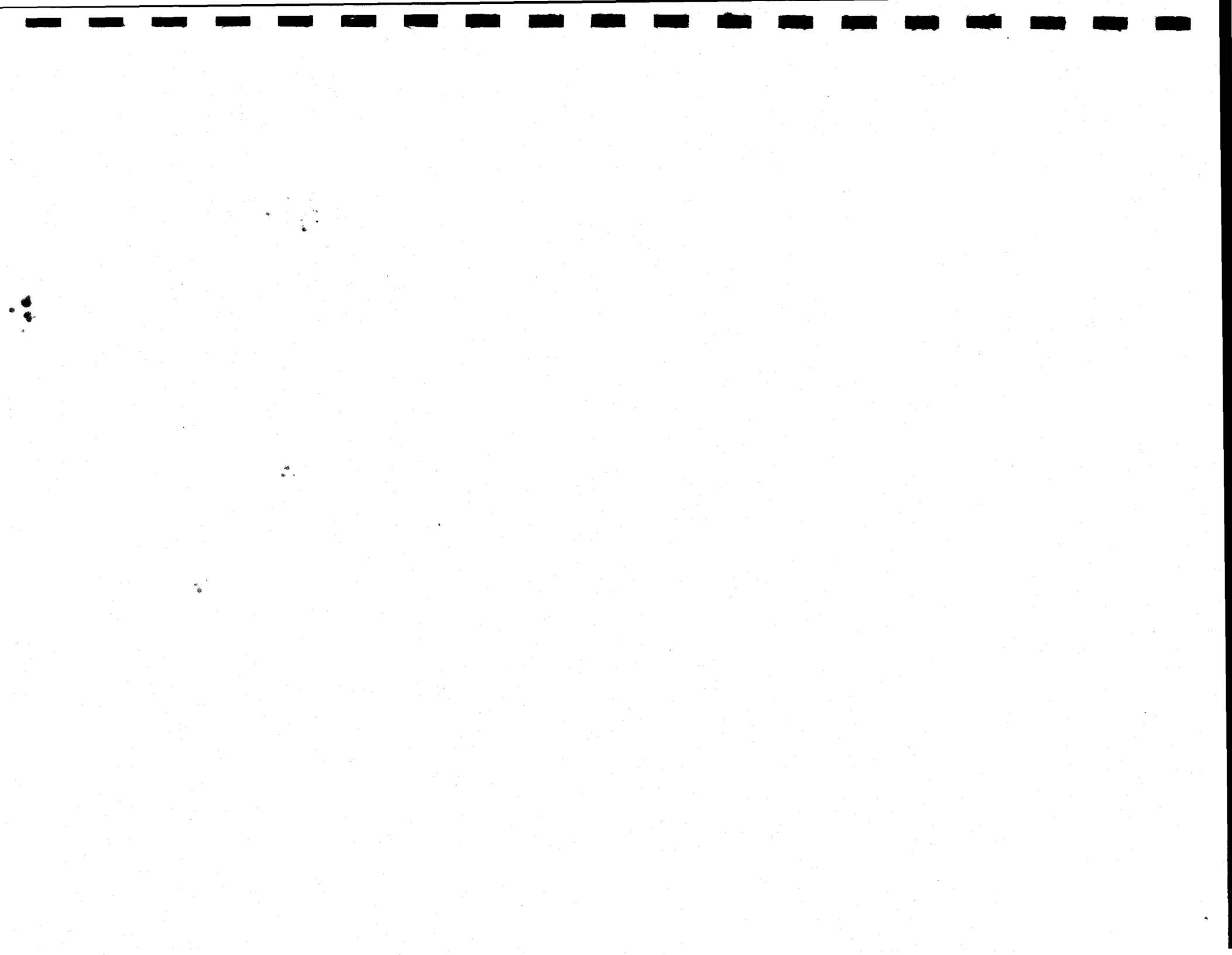
YETZIRATIC TEXT:	DISPOSING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	ZAIN
TAROT:	LOVERS
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	HORUS/SET
GREEK DIETY:	CASTER/POLLUX
ROMAN DIETY:	ROMULUS/REMUS
SIGN:	GEMINI
MAGICAL WEAPON:	TRIPOD
VIRTUE:	CLASSIFICATION
VICE:	ISOLATION
MAGICAL POWER:	DUPLICATION
MINERAL DRUG:	KALI MURIATICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	ERGOT (LSD)
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	ANY TWIN DIETIES
GEMSTONE:	ALEXANDRITE
PLANT:	HYBRID
AROMATIC:	WORMWOOD
ORDER OF BEINGS:	MANIFESTED SPIRITS
ANGEL:	AMBRIEL
ANIMAL:	SPEAKING VARIETY OF BIRDS



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ORDER OF BEINGS:	MANIFESTED SPIRITS
ANGEL:	AMBRIEL
ANIMAL:	SPEAKING VARIETY OF BIRDS



LESSON 27

THE EIGHTEENTH PATH

'The eighteenth Path is called the Intelligence of the House of Influence (by the greatness of whose abundance the influx of good things upon created beings is increased), and from its midst the arcana and hidden senses are drawn forth, which dwell in its shade and which cling to it from the Cause of all causes.'

The 18th Path is called the Intelligence of the house of Influence and joins Binah and Geburah. This shows 'by the greatness of whose abundance the influx of good things upon created things is increased' which relates to the abundance of the Mother in Binah who dispenses her bounty to the creative Sephira of Geburah directly beneath it. The reference to the hidden senses simply means that Binah is above the abyss and as such is hidden from view but its emanations work directly on Geburah through the 18th Path. The reference 'which cling to it from the Cause of causes' relates to the fact that Binah is a Sephiroth that is directly connected to Kether which is sometimes called the Cause of causes.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Cheth which means a fence or enclosure. The numerical value of this letter is 8 which relates to other words of the same value such as AGD meaning to bind together, GH meaning to restore to its former state and DAG meaning agitated. All of these can relate to a

boundary of a country or state which also gives thought to the principle of rebuilding and growth. The word Cheth has a numerical value of 418, when reduced to the double digit of 13 relates to words such as GY meaning a nation or land rising, YAB to desire and AYB meaning an enemy. All of these show the martial aspects of border patrol and expansion of ones boundaries that one is liable to come across.

de'Olivet wrote that Cheth can be considered either as a vowel or a consonant. As a vocal sound it represents elementary existence and is a symbol of the vital aspiration. As a consonant it shows man at his toil and emphasises the effort and labour in work. As a grammatical sign it comes between Heh and Kaph which relate to a balance of things attached to labour and effort. The whole concept shows that Cheth is something that must be worked and fought for so that a balance can be obtained, which is not unlike the theory of democracy.

The Tarot association of this Path is the Chariot. This depicts a winged warrior riding through the sky in a chariot drawn by two horses. The main emphasis is on the concept of patrolling for here the warrior is ever vigilant and alert. The area that he patrols is in the sky which tends to show that his boundaries are almost limitless and are ever increasing, as he strives for not only the material but the spiritual as well which tends to show a balance of sorts in his aims and directives. His winged armour shows that he in fact is changing and adapting to the areas he goes into.

The Egyptian god form associated to this Path is Khepra who originated from an early Egyptian dynastic period. The archetypal form of this god was a mans body with the head of a beetle (scarab). In a sense this represented the physical shell of man after his life had finished for this was the form from which the spirit rose. Kephra was a god who was self created and as such used the beetle emblem. The name Khepra means he who rolls and relates to the beetle who rolls its dung (and eggs) in front of it where ever it goes. It was considered that as the beetle rolled the eggs they hatched and generated life from, it was analogous to the sun rolling across the sky giving both life and heat so that the seeds of the earth could grow.

The Greek myths associated here Apollo as the navigator and Apollo as the charioteer. As the navigator Apollo assumed the form of a dolphin and guided a ship of Cretans to Crissa where they eventually worshipped him under the name of Delphinian. As Apollo the charioteer he would go every winter from Delphi to the land of Boreas in a chariot drawn by griffins or white swans, and as such was often related to the coming of summer as his chariot was often considered a solar chariot for he always brought warmth with him to Delphi.

The Roman myth of this Path is dual and not only associates to Apollo but to the war chariot of Mars as well. The emphasis here is that the chariot was an instrument of war, conquest and victory. Without doubt the attributions of the chariot are all

solar but the chariot also stands for growth, development and the evolutionary process of life itself which when reduced to its primary concepts shows life in its protoplasmic state emerging from a shell. The chariot is in fact the shell (body) with the driver as the spirit who guides it.

The astrological sign associated here is Cancer. Those born under this sun sign generally show some artistic ability and are maternal and benevolent in their approach to life. Their favourite abode is the home where the Cancerian is the strongest surrounded with his or her possessions. They are sometimes psychic and dreamy by nature but on the other side of the coin they can be lazy and restless. By nature they are generally receptive individuals who are also reserved and in control of themselves though they have an inert magnificence for self sacrifice if the pressure becomes too much for them.

The constellation of Cancer (The Crab) was originally drawn as a beetle in both the Egyptian and Hindu zodiacs (around 400 B.C) though earlier Egyptian zodiacs used the hawk's head. Its modern form as a crab is said to have been derived from the Greeks who maintained that Juno placed this sign in the heavens in gratitude for biting the heel of Hercules when he fought the Hydra. One of the Arabic titles for this constellation is Al Sartan meaning he who holds or binds while the Greek name is Karkinos which has the same meaning and the Latin form is Cancer. The brightest star in this constellation is called Tegmine meaning holding. Ptolemy says 'The two stars in the eyes of Cancer

are of the same influence as Mercury, and are also moderate like Mars. Those in the claws are like Saturn and Mercury.'

The magical weapon of this Path is the furnace of the alchemist which is called the anthanor (an old terminology for oven). This is of course an empty shell which when heated up to a constant temperature has the power to transmute one metal into another. The adept who uses this must be well versed in alchemical principles and understand their reactions with each other. The Primea Materia placed in the anthanor does not have to be metal but can also be from the organic world.

The virtue of this Path is building, for here permanent roots and structures are set up so that when the security has been established to its optimum level new growth can develop. The whole concept is in fact one of stabilisation so that the emotions and the structure can merge together to form a stronger union. It is a process of building up one portion that has to catch up to the part that is more developed than the rest to make a stronger whole. If this does not happen the weaker aspects can drag the developed ones down so that no growth actually occurs and a period of regression develops. By building up the weaker points the full potential is realised which is growth on a previously unprecedented scale.

The vice of this Path is regression, which is not stagnation but a point where things decline to such a state that they move backwards. Though in some instances regression can be a valuable

tool, in this instance it is a form of decline. It is the point of hopelessness where one is too far behind to go ahead, which results in the the psyche retracing its steps back to its infantile source. This is a period where these individuals shut themselves off from the rest of the world and see things from their own slanted perspective.

The magical attainment of this Path is the power of casting enchantments. In simple terms it is the power to create spells (for want of a better word) over individuals. Here the adept creates the power of suggestion and this is not unlike hypnotism but on a larger scale. The magentic aura of the adept captivates the aura or auras of the individuals concerned by sending a light charge into them which throws their own defence mechanism into a state of confusion. The charge in fact is usually of a higher vibrational level than their own aura and as such takes control (for a limited period) until the individual concerned builds up his or her own defence mechanism against it. On a higher level this also concerns the adept who controls certain spiritual hierachies to do his bidding and instructs them to help or hinder an individual or place this person under their control.

A mineral drug of this Path is Calcareum Fluoricum and is a cell salt that deals in elasticity. It helps by firming the gums, ridding the skin of encrustations and it works on strengthening the internal organs. It also helps correct mental instabilities such as a fear of insecurity taken to the point of a mania. It helps repair skin tissues that form cracks near joints or

orifices and also helps blurred vision. Another important attribute of this salt is that helps memory by strengthening the brain fibres.

The Hindu association is Krishna driving the chariot of Arjuna to the battle of Kuruksetra given in the Bhagavad-Gita. It is here that Krishna teaches that hopelessness is but an illusion and the killing of the earthly forms of the enemy is simply eliminating the shells of their existences without hurting the their souls.

One of the gemstones associated to this Path is amber. This in fact is more of a fossilized resin from a species of ancient pines which were destroyed during the climatic changes in the earths temperatures. Amber was used for talismatic purposes for increasing the value of wealth and to keep one safe from harm and evil influences. It was held in high esteem for its curative powers against sore throats, toothache, dropsy, blood and kidney ailments, heat strokes, goitre and respiratory problems. As a jewel it was generally worn as a necklace touching the skin and was considered a great preventer of dying in ones sleep (if worn to bed at night).

The lotus is one of the plants that can apply to this Path and symbolises the first manifestation of life and is sometimes considered the symbol of evolution. In western myths we are reminded of the legend of the lotus eaters which states that those who have eaten the flower of the lotus will never return to

their home land and shows the concept of the eternal wanderer. Taking many of the myths into account one finds that the lotus becomes the central or focal point from around which all else evolves.

An aromatic of this Path is Onycha (Ungala aromatica) which is derived from a species of shellfish and is mentioned in Exodus (some claim that this is also a species of Rock Rose) . What ever its origin the most important thing to consider is its effect, which is a sweet smell that dulls the senses slightly and penetrates the aura. It in fact completely hides the vibratory or magnetic pattern of the aura from others so that ones presence is difficult to detect, especially in darkness though this effect is limited to a short period only. Many adepts in the past have used Onycha as a aromatic to help create a shield so that negative forces cannot find them.

The legendary order of beings associated to this Path are the vampires. By this it does not mean the common variety of bloodsucker, but those beings in the astral that can only exist by feeding off human energy and this cuts across numerous hierarchies of beings. In human terms there are also vampires as well that gain power over others by breaking into their etheric auras and controlling them by draining their energy sources, but these are generally other humans who generally prey on those who are natural victims by their passiveness.

The angel of this Path is Muriel which has a numerical value

of 287. Other words of the same value are PRZ meaning to disperse, be scattered here and there and PZR meaning dissipate. Reducing this to a double digit figure we have DChH (17) meaning to push out, thrust and TCh meaning spread over the surface. The root MUR from which Muriel is taken shows united movement which (goes upwards) and invades space or air, which relates to its Arabic origin of going beyond or exceeding. It relates to something moving upwards in space. This angel is also one used in the grimoires to invoke over a magic carpet so that it will fly.

Any shelled animal is associated to this Path. The turtle is one example and is a symbol of material existence and life itself in its most basic form. Since it is a creature of both land and water it also shows the evolutionary process in development. The crab is yet another form of life that can be applied here and is a symbol of oblique movement (and of side stepping issues) and also strongly relates to water.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF THE HOUSE OF INFLUENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	CHETH
TAROT:	CHARIOT
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	KEPHRA
GREEK DIETY:	APOLLO
ROMAN SYMBOL:	THE CHARIOT
SIGN:	CANCER
MAGICAL WEAPON:	ANTHANDR
VIRTUE:	BUILDING
VICE:	REGRESSION
MAGICAL POWER:	CASTING ENCHANTMENTS
MINERAL DRUG:	CALCAREUM FLOURICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	ANY SENSE DEPREVIATION
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	KRISHNA
GEMSTONE:	AMBER
PLANT:	LOTUS
AROMATIC:	ONYCHA
ORDER OF BEINGS:	VAMPIRES
ANGEL:	MURIEL
ANIMAL:	ANY SHELLLED ANIMAL